



# TOWN of EASTHAM

Department of Public Works

Department of Natural Resources

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PUBLIC WORKS

FIRST RESPONDER

## MINUTES (Amended)

### BOARD OF HIGHWAY SURVEYORS

MEETING: TUESDAY, JANUARY 05, 2021 @ 5:00pm

#### REMOTE PARTICIPATION ONLY

#### REMOTE PARTICIPANTS:

Silvio Genao, Superintendent of Public Works; Arthur Autorino, Select Board Liason; George Burgess, Board Member; Michael Harnett, Board Member; Keith Roberts, Board Member, Dan Coppelman, Alternate Board Member

Silvio Genao called the meeting to order at 5:00pm with an announcement that the meeting was being video recorded and held remotely in compliance with an executive order signed by Governor Baker on March 12, 2020 allowing members of a public body to participate remotely. Superintendent Genao stated that due to the fact that was the first meeting since the members were appointed, and the board had not convened to elect its officers, he would act as chair and moderate that meeting. Development and dissemination of subsequent agendas, as well as moderating future meetings, will be done by the chair as elected by the board at the meeting. Superintendent Genao stated that roll call votes would take place and asked members to wait until their name was called before voting.

### ELECTION OF BOARD OFFICIALS

A brief discussion regarding the positions of the Board of Surveyors took place.

*George Burgess made a motion nominating Michael Harnett for the position of Chairperson.*

*Keith Roberts seconded the motion.*

**ROLL CALL VOTE: George Burgess, Yes; Michael Harnett, Yes; Keith Roberts, Yes; Dan Coppelman, Yes.**

*George Burgess made a motion nominating Keith Roberts for the position of Vice-Chair. Michael Harnett seconded the motion.*

**ROLL CALL VOTE: George Burgess, Yes; Michael Harnett, Yes; Keith Roberts, Yes; Dan Coppelman, Yes.**

*Michael Harnett made a motion nominating George Burgess as Clerk for the Board. Keith Roberts seconded the motion.*

**ROLL CALL VOTE: George Burgess, Yes; Michael Harnett, Yes; Keith Roberts, Yes; Dan Coppelman, Yes.**

#### **Discussion of the Charge of the Board of Highway Surveyors**

A discussion took place regarding the Charge of the Board of Highway Surveyors as outlined in the Town of Eastham Charter Article IX, Section 5, Paragraph G. Superintendent Genao read the charge, stated he looked forward to working with the Board and asked if the Board members had any comments or questions. Keith Roberts asked if the Board recommendations would be considered professional input and if there would be any liability to the Board members. Superintendent Genao stated he would refer this question to the Town Administrator, Jacqui Beebe and Town Counsel and have an answer at the next meeting.

#### **Discussion on Topic Referrals from the Select Board**

##### **Review of the Application to accept portions of Toland Drive as a public road**

Superintendent Genao stated he had reached out to the point person for this request to inform them that this issue was going to be on the agenda for the night's meeting and was asked by them to place the issue on hold so they can have more discussion with neighborhood members. Discussion took place that there was incomplete information provided by the applicant and in the future the Board would expect complete information prior to their review. There was also discussion about the condition of the pavement and environment of these roads and potential costs to the Town.

*A motion was made by Keith Roberts to postpone this issue. George Burgess seconded the motion.*

**ROLL CALL VOTE: George Burgess, Yes; Michael Harnett, Yes; Keith Roberts, Yes; Dan Coppelman, Yes.**

##### **Referral from Select Board for discussion of the Status of Underground Electric Utilities on Thoreau Drive.**

At their meeting on December 21, 2020, the Select Board voted to refer the matter of underground electrical utilities on Thoreau Drive and issues the area residents were having with the failure of electrical service and Eversource claiming that the infrastructure in place there did not belong to the power company and was the area residents responsibility to maintain and repair even though the residents have been paying Eversource for the electricity being transmitted through those lines. As a possible way to assist these Town residents, the Board has discussed and contacted Town Counsel regarding possible remediation in the form of special legislation to upgrade the existing utilities. Town Counsel provided an opinion that this would essentially allow the Town the task of upgrading the infrastructure, and recoup the costs of the work from



the residents in the form of betterments paid back over time. Board members discussed the need for more information regarding all of the costs involved in this project and the potential for setting a precedent for any other situations like this existing in Town and recommend the Select Board develop an acceptance policy to address this and future similar situations in the future.

*A motion was made by Keith Roberts to recommend the Town move forward with pursuing, **without endorsement by the Board of Highway Surveyors**, the groundwork to proceed with the Select Boards recommendations **as a possible way to assist these residents.***

*Michael Harnett Seconded the motion.*

**ROLL CALL VOTE: George Burgess, Yes; Michael Harnett, Yes; Keith Roberts, Yes; Dan Coppelman, Yes.**

Referral from the Select Board regarding potential Multi-Modal Safety Improvements to Dyer Prince Road

Concerns have been presented by Dyer Prince residents during the Rock Harbor project regarding increased traffic flow and possible safety issues for pedestrians walking on the sides of the road and bike riders. Discussion regarding the current size of Dyer Prince being only 20 feet wide and the only way to add pedestrian or bike areas would be to taking of some of the properties along the edge of the road and would homeowners be willing to give up their right of ways. A question about the actual number of people who would actually be walking or biking on the road versus driving their vehicles to the parking lot and walking from there was posed. Questions about whether a traffic study, had been, or was being considered being done were also discussed.

*A motion was made by Keith Roberts to continue this topic discussion at the next meeting.*

*Motion was seconded by Michael Harnett.*

**ROLL CALL VOTE: George Burgess, Yes; Michael Harnett, Yes; Keith Roberts, Yes; Dan Coppelman, Yes.**

Public Comment

No members of the public were participating in the meeting.

Other Business or Matters Not Anticipated by the Board

Road Opening Permits by Public Utility Companies for review by the Board

20-G177	855 Bridge Road	Town Maintained Road	Approved
20-G178	95 Meadow Drive	Town Maintained Road	Approved
20-G179	725 Schoolhouse Road	Town Maintained Road	More Information Requested
20-G180	60 Crosby Village Road	Private Road	Approved
20-G181	300B Shurtleff Road	Town Maintained Road	Approved
20-G182	20 Lee Court	Private	Approved
20-G183	80 Alston Ave	Town Maintained Road	More Information Requested
20-G184	815 Governor Prentice Road	Town Maintained Road	More Information Requested
20-G185	21 Nutmeg Lane	Private	Approved
20-G186	415 Campground Road	Town Maintained Road	Approved
20-G187	Hay Road	Town Maintained Road	Approved

There were no public comments.

Schedule Next Meeting

Discussion took place on how often and what day Board meetings would take place. The Board decided to have meetings every other Tuesday at 5:00pm and could revisit the schedule as the topic load dictates.

The next meeting will take place on Tuesday, January 19, 2021 at 5:00pm and Superintendent Genao will provide the Board with the Zoom meeting information.

ADJOURNMENT

*A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Michael Harnett at 6:30pm.  
The motion to adjourn was seconded by Keith Roberts.*

**ROLL CALL VOTE: George Burgess, Yes; Michael Harnett, Yes; Keith Roberts, Yes;  
Dan Coppelman, Yes.**

Respectfully Submitted,

Vicki Reis  
Administrative Assistant  
Department of Public Works